

Morgan County Soil  
and Water  
Conservation District

0 S. Burke Street

Versailles, MO 65084

573-378-5822 ext. 101

# Soil Conservation News

## Soil and Water Annual Meeting

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District cordially invites you and your family to join us at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday evening March 17th, 2015. This years meeting will be held at the Stover Community Center with a meal, provided by the district, being served at 6:30 pm.

Following the meal we will have a presentation by J. C. Kuessner, Deputy Division Director, of the Mo. State Parks.

The Cooperator of the Year for 2014 will be named. There will be drawings for door prizes donated by area businesses.

So that we will know how many meals to plan for, please contact our office no later than March 12th with the exact number in your family that will be attending. Please return the bottom portion of the newsletter or phone 573-378-5822 ext 101.

If you need an accommodation, please contact Patty Wittrock at 573-378-5822 ext. 101 by March 12th, 2015.

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending dinner. Please include both adults and children. To participate in the dinner we must have your reservation no later than March 12th,

## THERE ARE STILL COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

There are still cost-share funds available for cost-share practices to be completed before May 31st. If you aren't ready to complete a practice before May 31st it is never too early to sign up for FY2016 funds.

Some areas we may be able to help with.

**Grazing Management:** The steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion problems and affect water quality.

We can help you make the best use of soil and water resources by improving vegetative cover on pastures and developing a planned grazing system that may include developing water sources and water distribution, fencing to construct paddocks, lime to manage pH of the soil and inter-seeding of legumes.

**Sensitive Areas:** Sensitive areas are areas of agricultural land where current management has impacted erosion, surface water and ground water.

We can help you protect the water quality in streams, you can plant grass buffers or woody species along the edges of crop fields or below cropland to trap runoff, plant trees or shrubs to reduce wind erosion and exclude livestock from streams.

**Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion:** Sheet, rill and gully erosion is the unwanted removal of soil from the land surface or through channels by the action of rainfall and runoff.

We can help you establish a good vegetative cover to establish the soil, build terraces to reduce the erosive force of water, use a no-till system, plant trees and shrubs at the edge of fields to help with erosion, develop diversion to direct rainwater and plant sod-forming grasses to efficiently transport rainfall.

**Woodland Erosion:** Woodland erosion is caused by the removal of soil or vegetation through livestock trampling or improper tree harvesting.

To protect woodlands and water from the impacts of livestock or recover an already damaged area you can plant trees and shrubs, install fence to exclude livestock, ensure timber harvesting operations use proper construction of logging roads and stream crossings and correctly control gully erosion through proper timber harvest practices.

**Nutrient and Pest Management:** The runoff from improper nutrient and pest management practices can affect water quality.

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## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS INTERNSHIP

The Soil and Water Conservation Program (SWCP) is funded by a one-tenth-of-one-percent, Parks, Soils and Water sales tax approved by voters. The SWCP administers funds received by the tax for a voluntary program to agricultural landowners through Soil and Water

Conservation Districts (SWCD) which provide technical and financial assistance. Financial assistance can provide up to 75 percent cost-share for landowners to install conservation practices on agricultural land to control soil erosion and protect water quality. Since establishment of the sales tax in 1984, the program has helped to conserve and assure the

### SWCP Internship Overview

Funding for a summer internship program is available to **all 114 county SWCDs** from May 1, 2015 to September 1, 2015. It is at the discretion of each SWCD to participate in the internship program. Student interns will gain work experience in a hands-on learning environment that will promote personal and professional growth while mentoring with SWCD board of supervisors and staff, and conservation partners. Specific job duties, work schedule and hourly pay will be determined by the local SWCD board. The internship may focus on technical training of planning and design of conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. The internship may also focus on office operations and managerial duties to efficiently provide cost-share financial assistance to landowners. Each intern may work with their higher education institute as needed to receive college credit for your participation in the internship.

### Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must be a higher education (college, university, technical school, etc.) student within any degree major. The intern cannot be a high school senior transitioning to a higher education institution regardless of college credits earned in high school or cannot graduate from a higher education institution before the end of the internship. An intern does not have to reside in the county where the internship is located.

### Internship Contact Information

Contact the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District at 100 S. Burke Street or call 573-378-5822 ext. 101 if you are interested in participating in the Summer Internship Program. We will provide you with an application form and internship details specific to our district.

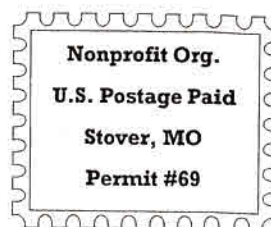
### Quotes from 2014 SWCD Intern Surveys:

*"I learned so much about conservation that I would have never learned without working with the SWCD. I was able to do everything hands on and had a great team of employees to help me learn along the way."*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed working with landowners, and helping them solve conservation concerns on their land."*

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***"Return Service Requested"***

Board of Supervisors

Brian Lehman, Chairperson

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NRCS Personnel

Mike Morris, District Conservationist

Johnetta Yeager, Soil Conservationist

Kevin Franken, Resource Conservationist

John Draffen, Soil Conservation Technician

**COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE** Cont. from page 2

To prevent excessive chemical runoff you can adopt new management techniques and/or technologies for applying commercial fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide, properly use manure as a plant nutrient source and move excess manure from areas saturated with nutrients to land where they are needed.

For assistance with any of these problems please contact our office at 573-378-5822 ext. 101 and have your name placed on our commitment list. Requests for service are handled in the order which they are received.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).



## **Crop Insurance Linked to Conservation Compliance**

In February of 2014, the Agricultural Act of 2014 commonly referred to as the 2014 farm bill was signed into law and brought with it changes in many program policies. One key provision of this legislation is the linking of subsidized crop insurance to conservation compliance provisions first enacted in the 1985 farm bill. Producers intending to purchase crop insurance subsidized by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) must be in compliance with highly erodible land (HELC) and wetland (WC) provisions. Producers obtaining federally reinsured crop insurance will not be eligible for any premium subsidy paid by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) for any policy or plan if they have not filed an AD-1026 with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 that certifies compliance. Producers who have participated in Farm Programs in the past should be familiar with filling out an AD-1026 but with all the “red tape” associated with doing business these days a review of the process may be in order.

Producers will schedule an appointment with their local FSA office each year to certify HELC and WC compliance. The producer will be asked to fill out an AD-1026 which lists all of the farms they are associated with and asks some general questions that determine if a field determination is necessary. Producer activities that can generate a need for a field determination include but are not restricted to planting a commodity crop on land that has not had an HELC or WC determination completed on it or other activities including clearing or draining land to improve farming potential. If none of these activities have occurred then the operator is considered compliant and is eligible for insurance. If the producer answers yes to any of these questions a field determination will be done to determine what actions are necessary to consider the producer compliant with HELC and WC provisions.

The number of producers who have shown an interest in FCIC subsidized crop insurance and do not have a current AD-1026 on file with the FSA is relatively small. Many of these producers operate pasture and hay land which historically was not enrolled in a Farm Bill program. For them, conservation compliance for crop insurance may be as easy as signing an AD-1026 with FSA by June 1. Others may need a field inspection and possibly the development of a Farm Plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This service is easy and provided with no charge. For more information contact your local FSA or NRCS office.

## **Agroforestry Workshop to be held Saturday, April 11, 2015**

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry will conduct a spring workshop at the Allen Research and Education Site on Saturday, April 11 on Old Eight Road off of Route O by Laurie, Missouri. Agroforestry, forestry, wildlife, and warm-season grass management will be illustrated and discussed on the diverse 560-acre farm. Topics will include timber stand improvement (TSI), shiitake mushroom culture, “hack and squirt,” chain saw safety, forest farming with botanicals, “feathering” for wildlife benefits, and more. A tour of the nut species orchard consisting of five grafted cultivars of pecan, walnut and Chinese chestnuts is included. Weather permitting; a warm-season grass burn will be conducted.

Cost of the workshop is \$10 a person and a hot lunch will be served. For a registration form please go to [www.centerforagroforestry.org](http://www.centerforagroforestry.org) or call the Center for Agroforestry at 573-884-2874. Brochures can also be picked up at the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District.